

## GEN. H. L. SCOTT ASKS FOR 3,000,000 MEN

Chief of Staff and Gen. Wood  
Tell Senate Committee  
U. S. Army's Need.

### SEE UNIVERSAL TRAINING

Exhibition of Militia on the  
Border Is Called a Na-  
tional "Tragedy."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Compulsory military training was a live subject here today. Hearings opened before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs on the Chamberlain bill. Major-General Hugh L. Scott and Major-General Leonard Wood were the witnesses in favor of the general plan, while Walter L. Fisher of Chicago, formerly Secretary of the Institute in the Taft Administration, spoke in opposition to the universal idea, advocating a standing army of 500,000 with vocational education and training, with the military idea secondary. Mr. Fisher said the need of the hour was for preparedness.

Gen. Scott declared that 3,000,000 fully equipped troops should be available within ninety days after the outbreak of any war involving this country.

Both Gen. Scott and Gen. Wood confessed the National Guard had previously been the most recent test—that involving the policing of the border. Gen. Wood declared that the exhibit of the militia had been nothing short of a "tragedy." He said that he spoke for more than half the men on the border who came directly under his department and the mobilization of whom for the border service was carried out under his direction.

Confirmed by Gen. Scott.

Gen. Scott affirmed the verdict of Gen. Wood, saying all the information he had received from the officers directly in charge of the National Guard on the border bore out the statement that they were not a proper reserve in time of national peril. The arguments of both experts were for some more dependable force than the militia in case of national peril.

Major-General Wood told the committee he believed in a plan of universal military training that would combine the best features of the Chamberlain bill and that of the General Staff of the army. The former provides for training of boys at an early age. The latter for the mobilization of youth between the ages of 18 and 21.

Gen. Wood took issue with Mr. Fisher on the necessity of universal training. If that were to be insisted upon as a part of universal plan of military service it would necessitate the addition of six months to the term prescribed for military training. Gen. Wood declared he would not be in favor of crediting any college course of military instruction with more than three months in the year, leaving three months to be served under the instruction of the army.

### Recruiting Would Be Easy.

The general said that with a proper reserve army built up by compulsory service a standing army of 250,000 would be sufficient for the needs of the government. He also expressed the belief that under the plan of universal military training recruiting for the regular army would be a comparatively easy task because the "profession of arms" would become attractive and men would go out of the training schools into the regular service easily and from choice.

"The uniform will then mean something," said the general. "Men will be eager to enlist and to enter the reserve."

Gen. Wood declared the country now was utterly defenseless against a well organized foe, that the mobilization was a tragedy and that if the guardsmen had not good troops they "would never have known what hit them."

### Drop 30 P. C. Physically Unfit.

The commander from whose department \$5,000 of the guardsmen sent to the border, said of the men enrolled when the call came an average of 30 per cent of each company had to be dropped for physical defects and the organiza-

tion went to the border filled up with green men.

"It's been a tragedy," he said, "but worth all it cost if we only profit by it. It was not the fault of the officers or men, but of a defective system."

"What should we do with the National Guard, General?" Senator Brady asked.

"It should be replaced as rapidly as possible with men trained under a universal service system," Gen. Wood replied. "When the system has been well started I would drop the National Guard entirely from any scheme of national defense, although we want every officer and man of it in the new plan, but it must be a straight out Federal force."

### Favors State Constabulary.

"Yet the States must maintain the National Guard or some other force," Senator Brady suggested. "I believe a constabulary should be maintained by each State, not a military force," explained the general. "The police are trained to control, while troops are trained to kill. There is less resentment when men are handled by police than when troops are called out. The people feel it is the policeman's business."

Senator Thomas asked what the general thought of the feeling of the nation toward universal service proposals.

"I believe the people will endorse it to-day," Gen. Wood answered. "Labor is with you when you make it absolutely certain that all men, rich or poor, will share alike in military service."

### Need 3,000,000, Says Gen. Scott.

Gen. Scott's statement that 3,000,000 fully equipped and ready troops should be available in the United States within ninety days after the outbreak of any war between this country and a European Power, or coalition of Powers, has the endorsement of the Army War College and virtually all the military experts of the regular army. It is based on the lessons of the European war.

The general staff had previously estimated that in the event of a war with a first class Power the United States would have 500,000 fully equipped troops ready at the outbreak and 500,000 more should be available in ninety days. Army experts now say these numbers should be trebled.

"This is due," said Major-General Scott, "to the fact that one of the Powers involved in the war and whose territory extends the whole length of our northern frontier has increased its army from a relatively small force to a strength approximating that of the other great European Powers."

### Immunity From Invasion.

"Due to the fact that our northern neighbor is largely an island empire a great portion of any trained forces it may possess can be spared for use in a distant theatre of operations because, being an island empire, the control of the sea gives it practical immunity from invasion where troops have to be transported across the sea."

"It should be pointed out also that our northern neighbor is in alliance with a powerful Oriental nation—another island empire—and for the same reason when acting in alliance with a Power which has control of the sea has ability to send its army of 2,250,000 men to any part of the world without danger of invasion."

### The foregoing statement, together with other matters discussed by the Chief of Staff, was made without thought of its diplomatic or confidential character.

In the course of the hearing Major-General Scott divulged much information which has heretofore been held strictly confidential.

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### Volunteer System a Failure.

He "called a spade a spade" and emphasized the general idea that unless this country places itself in a position of real preparedness it will be in a position of absolute helplessness before countries which have highly trained veteran armies.

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### Wilson Reserves Decision.

Coincident with the appearance of Gen. Scott before the committee, it was learned good authority that President Wilson is reserving his decision on the general question of universal military training. The President does not regard the Chamberlain bill as having solved the problem and he wants to see specifically just what the proposed plan is before he reaches a decision.

## \$35,000,000 "PORK" BILL LIKELY TO PASS

Worst Measure of Kind in History Is to Be Jammed Through Congress.

### PRESIDENT MAY VETO IT

Nine-tenths of the Proposed Public Buildings Are Unnecessary.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Although the country apparently is facing a serious deficit for the next fiscal year a cry for "pork" has gone up from members of Congress at this session. The result is that the omnibus public building bill, now before the House, seems likely to pass unless President Wilson resorts to stern measures.

### The present bill would call for an expenditure of upward of \$35,000,000 for post offices, nine-tenths of which, according to officials of the Post Office Department and Treasury Department, are entirely unnecessary.

In fact, the bill is pronounced by experts who have analyzed it as the worst instance of attempted "pork" legislation in the history of the country.

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"This is due," said Major-General Scott, "to the fact that one of the Powers involved in the war and whose territory extends the whole length of our northern frontier has increased its army from a relatively small force to a strength approximating that of the other great European Powers."

### Wilson Likely to Veto It.

Inasmuch as few, if any, Congressmen have been left out in the distribution of "pork" in this bill, there seems small likelihood of serious opposition to such a course. What fate it would have in the Senate is still a matter of doubt. It is almost certain, however, that the President, if the bill ever reaches him in its present form, will veto it.

The present bill apparently marks the extreme limit to which the policy, first embarked on in 1902 of grouping meritorious projects with one that is purely wasteful has been carried.

In the present bill fewer large cities are provided for than ever before, while crossroads throughout the country are to be marked with monumental buildings costing anywhere from \$50,000 to \$500,000.

There are more than 400 buildings or sites for which appropriations are made. More than half of these represent, it is alleged, a pure and simple case of "pork"; that is, they would not be built solely on the ground of public necessity.

### Analysis of the Measure.

An analysis of the bill made by Treasury Department experts and representatives of the Post Office Department in fact shows that over 300 of the buildings contemplated could not be erected with any profit to the government.

The appropriations for these buildings and sites amount to \$9,500,000, and would involve a total annual maintenance charge to the government, it is estimated, of \$1,490,000. These buildings would take the place of rented quarters ample sufficient, it is declared, for present and prospective needs; the total rental charge being at present only \$252,000, or about one-fifth of what it will cost the government to maintain the buildings projected.

"Pork" apparently knows no partisanship. Every Congressman, it would appear, has been invited to take a few slices in the hope that their votes will thereby be secured. But in the distribution of items in the bill the less populous States have fared as well, if not better, than the larger ones.

### System's Iniquity Shown.

The most conspicuous example of the iniquity of the present system is afforded perhaps in the case of Hazard, Ky. Its present post office receipts in a year amount to less than \$5,000.

At the present time the government is paying \$50 a year rent for the post office at Hazard, yet Congressman Langley, in whose district Hazard is situated, has succeeded in getting into the bill an appropriation of \$10,000 for a Govern-

ment building at Hazard which will require \$3,500 a year to maintain.

The same Congressman has come to the relief of another town in his district, namely, Pikeville, Ky., has 2,280 population. Its post office receipts are about \$6,000 a year. If the present bill goes through it will have a \$35,000 post office, costing the government \$5,000 a year to run, in place of the post office the government rents for only \$325 a year.

### Southern States Fare Well.

North Carolina, the State of Josephus Daniels, appears to have fared extremely well as a State inasmuch as sixteen towns are to get either new buildings or new sites. Thirteen are declared to be unnecessary and an unwarranted expense to the government. Six of them have a population of less than 2,000.

Mount Olive, N. C., boasting of a population of 1,171, who contribute to the post office less than \$6,000 a year, is to get a \$30,000 building, costing \$4,000 a year to run. The present post office costs the government but \$420 a year.

Another State especially favored is Missouri, possibly because Speaker Clark hails from that State. Twenty towns would get new post offices or new sites. Six of these towns have less than 2,000 inhabitants.

Seven of the towns are to get post offices costing from \$40,000 to \$100,000, the postal receipts in all but one of them are less than \$15,000 a year.

### Larger Cities Need Buildings.

But the injustice of the "pork" system as exemplified in the present bill lies in the fact, according to Government officials, that while the Treasury is to be drawn upon to ornament crossroads throughout the South and West, many of the larger cities are in crying need of an extension of facilities and yet are denied them.

The government is paying a total rental of \$2,452,000 in cities and towns where the present post offices have been overcrowded. In New York the government at the present time is paying a large rental for rooms in the Woolworth Building. In Washington it is paying \$600,000 a year rent for outside offices, and is forced to store valuable records in cellars and attics.

This situation is becoming daily more acute. The only remedy, it is alleged, lies in taking it out of the hands of the Congressmen entirely and placing such appropriations in charge of a commission with power to approve or reject every application.

### Blockade Runner Aground.

German Steamer Which Ran Gantlet of Destroyers Stranded.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—Copenhagen despatches state that the German steamer Prinz Friedrich Wilhelm has stranded between Samsoe Island and northern Funen. Salvage steamers are trying to save her. The steamer was en route to Bremen from Vardo, Norway, where she had been sheltered since the outbreak of the war, after having, according to German reports, succeeded in running the gantlet of British destroyers which were lying in wait for her off Bergen, Norway.

### The Island of Samsoe belongs to Denmark and is situated in the great belt north of the island of Funen, between Zealand and Jutland.

### 145 Factory Smokestacks Fined.

Fines aggregating more than \$2,000 were imposed by Magistrate Appleton in the Municipal Term Court yesterday upon 145 men who had been caught smoking in factories. In each case the fine was \$20 upon an employee and \$50 upon an employer. It was thought that if the cigarette strike had not kept many workers from their benches on Friday and Saturday, when the inspection tours were made, at least 500 violators of the no smoking rule would have been caught.

## FRENCH SOCIALISTS FAVOR PEACE TALK

Believe Allies Would Lose by Curt Dismissal of the German Offer.

### PARTY SHARPLY SPLIT

Divided on Internal Questions, but Unanimous in Stand for the Nation.

### Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Dec. 18.—The French Socialist party is practically unanimous in the view that the Allies should not dismiss out of hand Germany's peace proposal. Jean Longuet, leader of the minority of the Socialist party in the Chamber of Deputies, so assured the correspondent of THE SUN.

### Want Germany to Name Terms.

The Socialist Federation of the Seine passed a resolution which doubtless will be adopted by Socialists throughout the country calling upon the allied Governments, while continuing an energetic prosecution of the war, to take the necessary steps to inform the French conditions of peace.

The resolution further says the Allies should refuse no such proposal without giving it serious consideration and submitting it to all the Parliaments concerned. Should the German proposals be unacceptable the Governments are asked to state themselves formal counter proposals, giving their aims in the war. This resolution requires the explanation that many delegates who voted for it did so in a belief that any conditions Germany may propose now will be immediately and indignantly rejected by the working classes. By forcing Germany to state her terms, they believe the sincerity of the peace movement will be clearly shown to the world.

Gustave Hervé declares the Socialist Congress walked straight into the German trap, and contrasts the resolution with that of Robespierre. "The French people makes no peace with an enemy occupying its territory," he recalls Robespierre's words, "a people which treats with an enemy upon its territory is a people vanquished in advance."

M. Longuet, who is a grandson of Karl Marx and Deputy from the Seine and a member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, answered as follows a question on the attitude of the French Socialists toward Germany's proposal of peace:

"For the past fifteen months the French Socialist party has been more and more bitterly divided. While the party is unanimous for the defence of the country, and has been since the war began, a growing conflict has been going on since July, 1915, and even more since our last national congress in Paris in December, 1915.

"With all these differences it is remarkable that recent meetings of the party have shown that the party is practically unanimous as regards Germany's proposals. We are unanimous in thinking that the enemy must be forced to make peace. Our inner objects nothing more stupid or more wicked could be done than to refuse to examine any proposals the enemy might make."

"If they are so sure I think the best way to fall into the snare would be to allow the German Government to be able to tell its people it had tried everything possible to end the abominable nightmare in which they were living, but was compelled to continue owing to the obstinacy of their enemies, who refused even to talk about peace."

"Meanwhile our own nation, which has suffered more cruelly than all the other great nations involved, would see its moral resistance weakened. The mass of the people, the soldiers in the trenches, the mothers and wives would believe it was possible to have peace, but our Government had refused because of ambitious imperialistic designs among our governing classes and allies—for instance, Russia's pretensions to Constantinople."

"Our Government should oblige the German Government to let us know what its proposals are. If they are, as they may be, unjust and impossible, if it pretends to retain any part of Belgium, France or Serbia, if it is not prepared to suggest some solution of the Alsace-Lorraine problem, if it refuses to give absolute independence to Poland, then it will have to take the responsibility for the continuation of the slaughter, and not we. Then we want our government to speak to the nation and let it be known what our ends are, so that if we are obliged to continue the fight we may be certain it is only a fight for the rights of nations and the freedom of the world."

"I think the neutrals can exert a very useful and beneficial influence at the present moment, especially your great and respected republic. My party, while from a purely Socialist standpoint it favored Comrade Benson, the Socialist candidate for the American Presidency, is extremely pleased in view of the rights of nations and the freedom of the world, the salvation of Europe from his plucky and energetic attitude."

Batten's work for permanent mediation, which M. Longuet understands has President Wilson's approval.

## ITALIANS TAKE CARSO CRATER.

Occupied by Surprise Attack Position South of Bos Comale.

### Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—To-day's Italian official communication says: On the Trentino front the enemy's artillery was rather active in the Pustia area and on the Asiago plateau. Our batteries disturbed movements of the enemy in the Upper Asiatic Valley.

On the Carso we occupied by a surprise attack a craterlike hole in the limestone south of Bos Comale.

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### WILSON TALKS TO PRESS.

### Bare Questions on Foreign Affairs—Discusses Treasury Outlook.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—President Wilson after a lapse of a year resumed to-day his practice of receiving newspaper correspondents one day a week at the White House. The President abandoned this practice a year ago because of the ticklish foreign situation. He placed an embargo to-day on all questions which had to do with foreign affairs and the peace proposal.

The President let it be known that the serious deficit which the Treasury appears to be facing in 1918 has already been discussed by the Cabinet, but no general plan for raising additional revenue has as yet been evolved.

Another matter which he discussed to-day was the question of universal military training. Although the President has been represented by some of the vocates as having been converted to the idea he made it plain to-day that he had not committed himself.

So far as the experiment with the militia goes the President apparently does not share the view held by many that the Federalization scheme of the Hay law as tested on the border has been a failure.

### FOG HALTS SERBIAN FIGHTING.

### Trench Raids by British Chief Feature of Operations.

PARIS, Dec. 18.—Trench and air raids by British infantry and aviators are the only activities reported to-day from the Macedonian front, except for some artillery firing. The French War Office reports that a heavy fog along the front prevented important movements. The British War Office report is as follows: British troops successfully raided enemy trenches in the Haznadar district on the Struma front and at Brest on Lake Doiran on Saturday and Sunday. Forty enemy dead were counted and prisoners were taken.

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The most imposing Christmas exhibition ever planned, presenting shirts of the highest order in the most desirable cotton fabrics and domestic and imported silks obtainable.

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Made of domestic woolsens, Terry cloths, blankets, in a wonderful variety of colors and designs.

### Men's Smoking Jackets

at prices ranging from \$4.95 to \$13.50

Made of double-faced wool cloths. Very carefully tailored and finished.

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The selection comprises Opera, Romeo and Everet models, in tan or black kid.

### Men's Felt Slippers

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"Comfy" slippers in Oxford grey, tan, blue, green or black, in a large variety of styles.

### Men's House Boots, \$4

In tan or black kid. All sizes.

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It is big in the diversity and beauty of its fabrics

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